

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry the foregoing Amendment, Claims 17, 18, 24, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 37 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-16, 19-23, 25-28, 30, 33, 36 and 38 have been canceled. Claims 17, 18, 24, 29, 31, 32, 34, 35 and 37 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. In the Office Action of May 9, 2008, the Examiner set forth a number of grounds for rejection. These grounds are addressed individually and in detail below.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for not showing features shown in Claim 1. Claim 1 has been canceled. This ground of objection is now moot.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 2, 8 and 18-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for the reasons set forth on pages 3-4 of the outstanding Office Action. Claims 2 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 18 and 24 have been amended to better define the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits that these grounds of rejection have been obviated and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 9, 15, 16, 18-24, 29-35 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Heselden (U.S. Patent No. 5,472,297) for the reasons set forth on pages 4-5 of the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. In order to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled Claims 9, 15, 16, 19-23, 30, 33 and 33. Further, Applicant has amended Claims 18, 24, 29, 31-32, 34-35 and 37 to depend directly or indirectly from the allowable Claim 17. Applicant respectfully submits that these grounds of rejection have been obviated and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 2 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ragazzo (U.S. Patent No. 5,636,938) in view of Heselden (U.S. Patent No. 5,472,297) for the reasons set forth on pages 5-6 of the outstanding Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. To expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled Claims 1, 2 and 4. Rejection to these claims is now moot.

Claim Objection

Claim 17 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Allowance of the amended Claim 17 is respectfully requested.

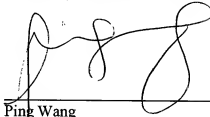
CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Ping Wang, M.D. (Reg. No. 48,328) at the 202.842.0217.

Respectfully submitted,

MORRIS, MANNING & MARTIN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ping Wang', is written over a horizontal line.

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